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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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31 August 1972

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Approved For Release 2003/06/12 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022700010002-7

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - IRAN: The Shah has threatened to withdraw diplomatic recognition from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) unless UAE President Sheik Zayid moves to improve relations.

Zayid has annoyed the Iranians by continuing to raise the matter of the three Persian Gulf islands--Abu Musa and the two Tunbs--which the Shah's forces occupied in late 1971. The situation was exacerbated last month when most Arab states, including the UAE, signed a letter to the UN Security Council president affirming that the islands were an "integral part of the United Arab Emirates and of the Arab homeland."

Sheik Zayid may now be worried over the Shah's threat to break diplomatic relations, which reportedly might be carried out in late September. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Zayid has asked the Arab League secretary-general to help him reach a compromise with the Shah. But if a resolution denouncing Iran for the island occupation is adopted at the Cairo meeting of Arab foreign ministers on 9 September, relations between the two governments will be even further strained.

The withdrawal of diplomatic recognition would almost certainly have negative consequences for both sides. The Shah is capable of making trouble for Zayid and the union, but at the same time a diplomatic break could deprive Iran of the cooperation of lower gulf sheikdoms in maintaining political stability in the area. In addition, a break in relations might prove advantageous to the Baathist regime in Iraq, which seeks to prevent Iran from exercising influence on the Arab side of the gulf.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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NOTES

FEDAYEEN: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) may be planning to carry out a spectacular terrorist operation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] three members of the organization left Beirut on 28 August for an unknown destination after consulting with the PFLP's chief of operations. Layla Khalid, who has been involved in two hijackings, is a member of the team. The PFLP has been quiet recently in the wake of its leader's illness, internal squabbling, and assassination attempts on several of its leading officials. It may hope, through a new terrorist operation, to regain some of its prestige among hard-line fedayeen.

(continued)

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